

Transfiguration Sunday
February 11, 2024
United Church of Christ - Neillsville
Pastor Sue Vornholt

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20913817

PRELUDE *‘Berceuse’* Felix Mendelssohn
Karen Mohr

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Shared Life and Service

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship
and service.

Thanks be to God!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also, with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Something so big

We can't hold it.

One: Something so deep

We can't reach it.

Yet it beckons.

It has many names.

God.

Love.

Truth.

Community.

God is in all of it,

And God draws us here.

To feel some light.

To dwell in some peace.

To experience some love. To sing some joy.

HYMN *“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”*

#73 NCH Louis Ruspini

**1 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**2 Open yourself to the song.
Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**3 Open your hearts ev'ryone.
Open your hearts ev'ryone.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**4 Don't be afraid of some change.
Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

**5 Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day;
enter, rejoice, and come in.**

OPENING PRAYER

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you
reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is
to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence.
With each encounter we are changed and
transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a
double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy
One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory.
May we walk among our siblings and friends as a
blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to
displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our
world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to
follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your
voice speaking to us and saying, ... “listen to my Child,
the Beloved!” Amen.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE (All)

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters, and on the mountain tops, enthralled with the glory that flows from you. When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us, shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

The God of Elijah, the God of Moses and the God of Jesus desires mercy more than sacrifice and a contrite heart rather than burnt offerings. Love God and do the right thing and forgiveness shall be your friend and mercy your true companion. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Give voice to God's love and peace; those around us need to hear the Good.

ALL: The Peace of God be with you.

All are invited to greet one another with such words as "The peace of Christ be with you," and the response: "And also with you."

PRAISE RESPONSE

(sung twice)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson

2 Kings 2:1-12

2Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to

Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

New Testament Lesson

Mark 9:2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON "Witness to Wonders" Pastor Sue

HYMN *"O Wonderful Sight, O Vision Fair"*

#184 NCH vs 1,4, 5

John Mason Neale

**1 O wondrous sight, O vision fair
of glory that the church shall share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun, Christ glows!**

**4 With shining face and bright array
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs beyond,
who live within God's loving bond.**

**5 And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery,
For which in joyful strains we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Let us pray as Christ Our Savior has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us
not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (Pastor)

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus. But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. Let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves. Let us offer our sacrifices to build community, bring peace, and be a double blessing to those in need throughout the world. Amen

Offertory *"If With All Your Hearts"* Mendelssohn

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen**

DEDICATION PRAYER

Gracious God, as we remember Christ's transfiguration, we stand in awe of the glimpse of your glory revealed on the mountain. Just as Peter, James, and John witnessed the radiant presence of Christ, we, too, are transformed by your love and grace. As we offer our offerings, may these gifts reflect the warming light of your love in our lives. Just as Jesus was transfigured before them, may our hearts be transformed, and our actions reflect the love and truth Jesus embodies. Bless our giving and use it to bring your divine light to a world in need. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, we pray.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, go now in the strength and power of what you have witnessed in this place knowing that the glory that leads us into transition also comforts us in our growing pains and sustains us as we take up our mantle and cross over to the other side. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *"God Be With You"*

#81 NCH

Jeremiah E. Rankin

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!
We are glad that you have joined us in-person,
through the internet or on the radio.
We pray that you will hear God's call, seek to
follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN
98.5FM and 1370AM



YouTube link for Sunday, February 11, 2024
<https://youtube.com/live/ntZNhiFppKI>

This week's radio broadcast
is sponsored by "a faithful listener".

Coffee fellowship after worship

Sign up now on the back bulletin board for
hosting future weeks.

Feb 11 – Susie Karl

Feb 18 - Nancy & Kirk Rodman

Feb 25 – Carole Romens

Mar 3 – Sharon Buddenhagen

Mar 10 -

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 11th – Worship

- 10 AM Deacon – JoAnn Wren
Greeter(s) – Jenna Ziegler, Krista Hamm
Usher(s) – Kirk Rodman, Nancy Rodman

Tuesday, February 13th –

- 1 PM – Marge Goetsch Bible Study –
*will meet in the lounge of church

Wednesday, February 14th –

- 6 PM Soup Supper here at UCC
- 7 PM Lenten Worship Service at UCC

Chili Soup Giveaway

February 18, 2024



UCC-Neillsville 515 West 2nd Street
10:45-11:00 AM